

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 PPT-01 DHA-02 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
/037 W

-----131844Z 055510 /44

R 131430Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2443

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 0929

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, CZ, CSCE
SUBJECT: MUTUAL ABOLITION OF VISA FEES; MATERIALS CONFISCATED FROM
TOURISTS

1. DURING MEETING WITH ACTING HEAD OF MFA SIXTH DEPARTMENT NOVOTNY
APRIL 12 POLCOUNS AGAIN BROUGHT UP TWO LONGSTANDING ISSUES.

2. MUTUAL REDUCTION/ABOLITION OF NIV FEES: NOVOTNY SAID THAT GOC
HAS REACHED A DECISION ON THIS, BUT HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHICH PART
OF MFA WILL COMMUNICATE IT, THE SIXTH DEPARTMENT OR THE CONSULAR
AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT. HEAD OF SIXTH DEPARTMENT ZANTOVSKY WAS TO
DECIDE WHICH OFFICE WOULD COMMUNICATE THE DECISION, BUT HAS BEEN
PREVENTED FROM DOING SO BY EXTENDED ILLNESS. COMMENT: WE CANNOT
PREDICT WHEN WE WILL BE GIVEN A FINAL ANSWER, BUT FEEL CERTAIN THAT
IT WILL BE NEGATIVE. END COMMENT.

3. MATERIALS CONFISCATED FROM TOURISTS: POLCOUNS HAD PERIODICALLY
OVER PAST SIX MONTHS PRODDED NOVOTNY TO ARRANGE RETURN OF BOOKS
WHICH HAD BEEN CONFISCATED BY BORDER GUARDS FROM TWO AMERICAN
TOURISTS VISITING CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY CAR. IN THIS MEETING
NOVOTNY SAID THAT HE HAD LOOKED INTO THE MATTER, BUT THAT BOOKS
COULD NOT BE FOUND. HE CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT
THE BOOKS HAD BEEN DESTROYED SHORTLY AFTER SEIZURE, AS IS NORMAL
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PRACTICE WITH CONFISCATED GOODS. NOVOTNY SAID MFA COULD BE
HELPFUL IN SUCH CASES ONLY IF NOTIFIED VERY SOON AFTER GOODS WERE
CONFISCATED. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY HAS PUT ON THE RECORD ITS
CONCERN ABOUT SUCH TREATMENT OF AMERICAN TOURISTS, BUT WE DO NOT
EXPECT GOC BORDER GUARDS TO CEASE PRACTICE OF OCCASIONALLY
SEIZING MATERIALS THEY CONSIDER "SUBVERSIVE."
BYRNE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOURISM, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FEES, VISAS, CUSTOMS SEIZURES, MEETING REPORTS, PERSONAL EFFECTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: b55235a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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